THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) STC had imported some quality of newsprint from M/s. Meteor Paper Ltd., London which was delivered through SCI. Due to a dispute in regard to declaration of the origin of the material, manufacturer's certificate etc., STC did not release the payment to the supplier. On filing of a claim by the supplier against SCI for the value of cargo, one vessel of SCI was arrested at Antwerp (Belgium) on 12.2.92. The arrested vessel has since been got released by SCI on an indemnity bond.

(c) and (d). The matter is begin enquired into.

[*Translation*]

Import of Food Items

716. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
PROF. K.V. THOMAS:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the various food items proposed to be imported during 1992-93; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and on receipt of the same shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Smuggling of Foodgrains from Tripura to Bangladesh

717. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling of foodgrains and other essential commodities from Tripura to Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Available reports and seizures made indicate that sugar and medicines are sensitive to smuggling from Tripura to Bangladesh. The number of cases booked and the value of such goods seized during the last three years are given below:

Year	*No. of cases*	*Value (Rs. in lakhs)*
1989	780	6.05
1990	795	10.24
1991	841	11.92

(b) Special preventive checks and drives are organised and the anti-smuggling machinery has also been geared up. Close coordination is maintained with all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling.